

Suspense Date: February 20, 2003

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

MEMORANDUM

To: William Devick, Administrator *WD*
From: Richard Sixberry, Aquatic Biologist
Subject: Comments on Conservation District Use Permit HA-3118

Comments Requested By: Dierdre Mamiya, Land Division

Date of Request: 2/6/03

Date Received: 2/6/03

Summary of Project

Title: Fish Farm (Offshore)

Proj. Kona Blue Water Farms (Niel Sims)

Location: N. Kona, Hawai

Brief Description:

The applicant intends to raise hatchery-reared fish in an open ocean fish farm offshore of the Natural Energy Laboratory near Unualoha Point, Hawaii. Hatchery technology and techniques are being developed for various species of high value fish.

Comments:

The proposed project is supported by the Division of Aquatic Resources since it will spur the economic development of the aquaculture industry in Hawaii. Additionally, it may relieve some of the pressure on local species depletion from over harvesting, entanglement from lost or discarded fishing equipment, and accidental taking of animals or fish other than the targeted species.

The activities proposed are not expected to have significant adverse effects on aquatic resource values or the ocean environment (FONSI).

The mitigation measures proposed for the project are adequate, including a long-term water quality monitoring program, which would limit or prevent excessive impact to aquatic resource values. We suggest that conditions similar or identical to the Ewa offshore Moi fish farm be incorporated into the permit process since the activities are essentially the same.